

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system for analyzing clinically related data, comprising:

a first interface to a clinical data store storing clinically related data;

a second interface to a knowledge base; and

an inference engine ~~that communicates with the inference engine~~ communicating with the clinical data store via the first interface and with the knowledge base via the second interface, the inference engine ~~configured to~~ selectively performing a comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the knowledge base, wherein the comparative analysis projecting [[s]] at least one facility-wide outcome that predicts an operational effect of altering a guideline or a policy being used in a clinical facility or organization based on the comparative analysis, and quantifying at least one opportunity for improvement if the altered guideline or policy is utilized in the clinical facility or organization ~~an analysis of the clinically related data and a clinical guideline selected from the knowledge base.~~

2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the clinical data store comprises a data warehouse.

3. (Original) A system according to claim 2, wherein the data warehouse stores clinically related data from at least one clinical facility.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein the at least one clinical facility comprises at least one of a hospital site and a research site.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the comparative analysis comprises an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the knowledge base comprises a set of clinical guidelines.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 6, wherein the clinical guidelines comprise best practices data.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 7, wherein the best practices data comprises pharmaceutical information, medical procedure information and historical outcomes information.

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~inference engine~~ at least one facility-wide outcome comprises a financial outcome, an operational outcome, or a clinical outcome corresponding with a plurality of patients, or a combination thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the at least one facility-wide outcome comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the inference engine stores the comparative analysis to storage.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of analyzing clinically related data, comprising:

a first computing process for accessing clinically related data;

a second computing process for accessing a knowledge base; and

a third computing process for selectively performing a comparative analysis of a key performance indicator of the clinically related data against the knowledge base, wherein the comparative analysis projects at least one facility-wide outcome that predicts an operational effect of altering a guideline or policy in a clinical facility or organization based on an analysis of the clinically related data and a clinical guideline or policy selected from the knowledge base and quantifies an opportunity for improvement that is expected to result from a subsequent altering of the guideline or policy, wherein the key performance indicator is indicative of at least one of a financial, an operational, or a clinical metric for operation of the clinical facility or organization, and the at least one facility-wide outcome includes one or more of a financial outcome, an operational outcome, or a clinical outcome corresponding with a plurality of patients; and

wherein said first, second, and third computing processes are completed by one or more computer processors.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of accessing clinically related data comprises accessing a data warehouse.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the data warehouse stores clinically related data from at least one clinical facility.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the at least one clinical facility comprises at least one of a hospital site and a research site.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the knowledge base comprises a set of clinical guidelines.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the clinical guidelines comprise best practices data.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the best practices data comprises pharmaceutical information, medical procedure information and historical outcomes information.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one facility-wide outcome comprises a financial outcome, an operational outcome, or a clinical outcome corresponding with a plurality of patients, or a combination thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12 ~~claim 20~~, wherein the at least one facility-wide outcome comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising a step of storing the comparative analysis to storage.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of generating an analytic report, the method comprising:

a first computing process that receives ~~receiving~~ a first selection of one of a plurality of guidelines, policies and procedures stored within a knowledge base;

a second computing process that accesses ~~accessing~~ clinically related data corresponding with a plurality of patients;

a third computing process that selectively performs ~~selectively performing~~ a comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the first selected guideline, policy or procedure contained within the knowledge base to provide an indication as to whether the first selected guideline, policy or procedure has been attained by a medical facility;

a fourth computing process that receives ~~receiving~~ a second selection of one of the plurality of guidelines, policies and procedures stored within a knowledge base;

a fifth computing process that receives an alteration of the second selected guideline, policy, or procedure stored within the knowledge base, wherein altering the guideline, policy, or procedure comprises altering a procedure for one or more of providing a drug to a patient, providing surgery to a patient, and discharging a patient from the medical facility;

a sixth computing process that uses ~~using~~ the altered second selected guideline, policy or procedure and the clinically related data corresponding with the plurality of patients to perform a predictive analysis that projects at least one operational, financial, or other facility-wide outcome that predicts an operational

effect of implementing the altered second selected guideline, policy, or procedure in a clinical facility or organization and quantifies an opportunity for improvement that might be expected to result if the altered second selected guideline, policy, or procedure is used by the medical facility;

a seventh computing process that updates the clinically related data after an implementation of the altered second selected guideline, policy, or procedure to determine whether a patient outcome or a cost has improved or declined,

wherein said first through seventh computing processes are performed by one or more computer processors.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the step of accessing clinically related data comprises accessing a data warehouse.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the step of selectively performing a comparative analysis comprises performing an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A system for analyzing clinically related data, comprising:

communications interface means, the communications interface means comprising a first interface to clinical data storage means for storing clinically

related data and a second interface to knowledge base means for storing clinical guidelines; and

inference engine means, the inference engine means communicating with the clinical data store and with the knowledge base via the communications interface means, the inference engine means configured to selectively perform a comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the clinical guidelines, ~~wherein the comparative analysis project[[s]] at least one facility-wide outcome that predicts an operational effect of altering a guideline or policy in a clinical facility or organization based on the comparative analysis, and quantify at least one opportunity for improvement that results if the altered guideline or policy is utilized in the clinical facility or organization based on an analysis of the clinically related data and a clinical guideline selected from the knowledge base.~~

30. (Original) A system according to claim 29, wherein the clinical data storage means comprises a data warehouse.

31. (Original) A system according to claim 29, wherein the comparative analysis comprises an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

32. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 29, wherein the at least one facility-wide outcome comprises a financial outcome, an operational outcome, or a clinical outcome corresponding with a plurality of patients, or a combination thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, wherein the at least one facility-wide outcome comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

34. (Original) A system according to claim 29, wherein the inference engine means stores the comparative analysis to storage.